

POLICY OF STATE OF DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION	POLICY NUMBER E-05	PAGE NUMBER 1 OF 2
	RELATED NCCHC/ACA STANDARDS: P-E-05/4-4371, 4-4372 (ESSENTIAL)	
CHAPTER: 11 HEALTH SERVICES	SUBJECT: MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING AND EVALUATION	
APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER:		
EFFECTIVE DATE: 11-19-07		

PURPOSE:

Inmates entering the prison system will have a mental health screening and inmates with positive screenings will be referred for further mental health evaluations.

POLICY:

1. An intake screening nurse will complete a mental health screening on all inmates within two (2) hours of intake into the facility and enter the information into the DACS intake form.
2. Mental health screening will include:

History of:

- a. Psychiatric history and outpatient/inpatient treatment
- b. Suicidal ideation or behavior
- c. Sex offenses
- d. Excessively violent behavior
- e. Victimization due to criminal violence
- f. Special education placement
- g. Cerebral trauma or seizures

Current treatment or status of:

- a. Psychotropic medications
- b. Emotional response to incarceration

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- c. Screening for cognitive and intellectual functioning.
 - d. Orientation
 - e. Suicidal ideation
 - f. Use of alcohol or illegal drugs
3. Inmates demonstrating impaired cognitive functioning, identified as having “special needs” related to mental disorders, significant psychological distress or positive signs for potential of mental health disease/diagnosis will be referred for additional evaluation and testing with a notification to mental health staff via DACS.
 4. In the event of a positive response to a question on the mental health portion of the receiving screening, qualified mental health professionals including psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed counselors, psychiatric nurses, or psychiatric social workers will perform further mental health evaluation. Additional mental health evaluation will be filed in the Medical Record. Evaluation will be completed within 14 days of referral.
 5. Treatment plans will be developed and implemented for inmates on the mental health case list. Treatment plans will be updated at a minimum of every 90 days.
 6. Mental health staff will request to obtain pertinent mental health records for inmates with previous history of outpatient or inpatient mental health treatment.

References:

National Commission on Correctional Health Care: Standards for Health Services in Prisons, 2003, P-E-05

American Correctional Association: Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions, 4th Edition, 2003. 4-4371, 4-4372.